



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 6291.0.55.003 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, May 2017

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## Summary

### Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

The November 2016 issue of Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) included detailed quarterly labour force data in pivot table format, in addition to the existing suite of SuperTable data cube outputs. SuperTable data cube outputs for Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) will be discontinued after the August 2017 issue.

## Insights from the Original Data

### INSIGHTS FROM THE ORIGINAL DATA

#### SAMPLE COMPOSITION

The Labour Force Survey sample can be thought of as comprising eight sub-samples (or rotation groups), with each sub-sample remaining in the survey for eight months, and one rotation group "rotating out" each month and being replaced by a new group "rotating in". This sample rotation is important in ensuring that seven-eighths of the sample are common from one month to the next, to ensure that changes in the estimates reflect real changes in the labour market, rather than the sample. In addition, the replacement sample is generally selected from the same geographic areas as the outgoing one, as part of a representative sampling approach.

When considering movements in the original estimates, it is possible to decompose the sample into three components:

- the matched common sample (survey respondents who responded in both April and May);
- the unmatched common sample (respondents in May but who did not respond in April, or vice versa); and
- the incoming rotation group (who replaced respondents who rotated out in April).

The detailed decomposition of each of these movements is included in the data cube 'Insights From the Original Data'.

In considering the three components of the sample, it is important to remember that the matched common sample describes the change observed for the same respondents April and May, while the other two components reflect differences between the aggregate labour force status of different groups of people.

While the rotation groups are designed to be representative of the population, the outgoing and incoming rotation groups will almost always have somewhat different characteristics, as a result of the groups representing a sample of different households and people. The design of the survey, including the weighting and estimation processes, ensures that these differences are generally relatively minor and seeks to ensure that differences in characteristics of rotation groups do not affect the representativeness of the survey and its estimates. Monthly estimates are always designed to be representative of their respective months, regardless of the relative contribution of the three components of the sample.

### ***INCOMING ROTATION GROUP***

In original terms, the incoming rotation group in May 2017 had a higher employment to population ratio than the group it replaced (59.5 per cent in April, up to 60.0 per cent in May 2017), and was lower than the ratio for the entire sample (61.6 per cent). The employment to population ratio increased for the majority of the rotation groups.

The full-time employment to population ratio of the incoming rotation group was higher than the group it replaced (39.7 per cent in April 2017, up to 41.3 per cent in May 2017), and lower than the ratio for the entire sample (41.8 per cent). The growth in full-time employment in New South Wales was partly due to the influence of the incoming rotation group.

The unemployment rate of the incoming rotation group was marginally higher than the whole sample (5.5 per cent, compared to 5.4 per cent), and it replaced a group with a higher rate (5.7 per cent in April). Its participation rate was below that of the sample as a whole (63.5 per cent, compared to 65.1 per cent), and up from the group it replaced (63.1 in April).

### ***OUTGOING ROTATION GROUP***

In looking ahead to the June 2017 estimates, the outgoing rotation group in May 2017, which will be replaced by a new incoming rotation group in June 2017, had a higher employment to population ratio (61.8 per cent in May 2017) compared to the sample as a whole (61.6 per cent in May 2017). The full-time employment to population ratio (41.5 per cent) was lower than the ratio for the entire sample (41.8 per cent).

In original terms, the unemployment rate for the outgoing rotation group in May 2017 was the same as the whole sample at 5.4 per cent. The participation rate for the outgoing rotation group in May 2017 was 65.4 per cent, which is higher than the rate for the whole sample (65.1 per cent).

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TREND DATA**

As the gross flows and rotation group data are presented in original terms they are not directly comparable to the seasonally adjusted and trend data discussed elsewhere in the commentary, and are included to provide additional information for the original data. Since the original data are unadjusted, they have a considerable level of inherent sampling variability, which is specifically adjusted for in the trend series. The trend data provide the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market and are the focus of the commentary in this publication.

## **Article Archive**

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication month.

Articles on labour related topics are also available in Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) and Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0).

## **LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ARCHIVE**

### **2017**

#### **April**

Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)  
Labour Force Pivot Tables (Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

#### **March**

Annual Seasonal Re-analysis (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

#### **February**

Changes to Filter Lengths used in Labour Statistics (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)  
What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Changes to Filter Lengths used in Labour Statistics (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

### **2016**

#### **November**

Spotlight on Underemployment (Cat. 6202.0)  
Labour Force Pivot Tables (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

#### **September**

Labour Force Pivot Tables (Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

#### **August**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)  
Online Collection In The Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0)  
Expanded Education data from the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

### **July**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)  
Revisions to Monthly hours worked in all jobs (Cat. 6202.0)  
Advice on Reporting Regional Labour Force Data (Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **March**

Annual Seasonal Re-analysis (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **February**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Online Collection In The Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

### **January**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **2015**

### **December**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **November**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Measures of Underemployment and Underutilisation (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Measures of full-time, part-time job search (Cat. 6291.0.55.001)  
Measures of leave entitlements (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Measures of current duration of employment (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Volume measures of underutilisation (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Measures of retrenchment (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Measures of sector of main job (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

### **October**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **September**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **August**

Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

### **July**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)  
Progress with recommendations from the Independent Technical Review (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)  
Change to Status in Employment Output (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **June**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

Assessing Volatility in the Labour Force Series (Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

Update on Recommendations 10 and 11 from the Independent Technical Review (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **May**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

## **April**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **March**

What's New in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

Update on Recommendations from the Independent Technical Review (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **February**

What's new in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

## **January**

What's new in the Labour force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

# **2014**

## **December**

What's new in the Labour force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **November**

What's new in the Labour force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

Independent Technical Review into the Labour Force Survey and ABS Response (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

## **October**

Removing the effect of Supplementary Surveys from seasonally adjusted estimates (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **September**

Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **August**

Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

## **July**

What's new in the Labour force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **June**

What's new in the Labour force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **May**

What's new in the Labour force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

## **February**

What's new in the Labour force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (Cat. 6202.0)

Analysis of changes to Labour Force Regional Estimates (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

## **January**

Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing (Cat. 6202.0)

Analysis of changes to Labour Force Regional Estimates (Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

# **2013**

## **December**

What's new in the Labour force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics (Cat. 6202.0)

## **November**

What's new in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

## **September**

What's new in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0)

Understanding full-time/part-time status in the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0)

## **June**

What's new in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0)

Fact sheet did you know - Underemployment (Cat. 6202.0)

## **May**

What's new in Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0)

New Labour Force Sample Design (Cat. 6202.0)

Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (Cat. 6202.0)

## **April**

What's new in Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0)

Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0)

## **February**

What's new in the Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0)

Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

Employed Persons, Trend Estimates (Cat. 6202.0)

Unemployed Persons, Trend Estimates (Cat. 6202.0)

Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked, Trend Estimates (Cat. 6202.0)

## **January**

What's new in Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0)

Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary Surveys (Cat. 6202.0)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

## **2012**

### **November**

Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series (Cat. 6202.0)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

### **August**

What's new in the Labour Force (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Employed Persons, Trend Estimates (Cat. 6202.0)  
Unemployed Persons, Trend Estimates (Cat. 6202.0)  
Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked, Trend Estimates (Cat. 6202.0)

### **July**

Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **June**

What's New in Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0)  
Labour Household Surveys content review and the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **May**

What's new in the Labour Force (Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia (Cat. 6202.0)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **April**

Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)  
ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates (Cat. 6202.0)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **March**

Annual Seasonal Reanalysis (Cat. 6202.0)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **February**

Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness (Cat. 6202.0)  
Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

### **January**

Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained (Cat. 6202.0)

## **2011**

### **November**

Understanding Labour Force (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)  
Aggregate monthly hours worked, Trend estimates (Cat. 6202.0)  
Underemployment rate, Trend estimates (Cat. 6202.0)  
Labour force underutilisation rate, Trend estimates (Cat. 6202.0)

## **February**

Historical Revisions (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001, Cat. 6291.0.55.003)

## **January**

Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey (Cat. 6202.0, Cat. 6291.0.55.001)

Employed Persons, Trend estimates (Cat. 6202.0)

Unemployed Persons, Trend estimates (Cat. 6202.0)

## **About this Release**

A range of Excel spreadsheets, pivot tables, and SuperTABLE datacubes. SuperTABLE data cubes will be discontinued after the July 2017 release. The monthly spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The monthly datacubes and pivot tables contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

## **Explanatory Notes**

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Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

## **Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet**

For a better level estimate of public sector employment, including by level of government, the ABS recommends referring to the annual Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002).



# Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the Standard Error (SE).

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The Relative Standard Errors (RSE) for July 2013 (50% old sample, 50% new sample) and onwards will be subject to revisions in the future, as more information is known about the new sample after it has been introduced.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

State	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust
<b>Employed</b>									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.9	3.1	3.7	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.3	0.9	5.5
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.3	3.0	4.4	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.5	1.1	6.6
Nov-07	6.2	3.2	4.3	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	6.4
Dec-07	6.1	3.4	4.3	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	6.2
Jan-08	6.0	3.6	4.2	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	6.0
Feb-08	5.9	3.8	4.2	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	5.9
Mar-08	5.9	4.1	4.2	2.4	3.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.7
Apr-08	5.8	4.4	4.4	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.6
May-08	5.7	4.7	4.3	2.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.4
Jun-08	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.3
Jul-08 — Aug-09	6.9	6.1	5.3	3.1	4.0	1.5	1.2	1.6	7.4
Sep-09	6.5	5.8	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.5	7.0
Oct-09	6.1	5.5	4.7	2.8	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.4	6.5
Nov-09	5.8	5.2	4.5	2.6	3.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	6.2
Dec-09 — Jun-13	5.5	4.9	4.3	2.5	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	5.8
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.7	3.8	5.5	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.8
Feb-14 onwards	7.9	3.9	5.6	2.7	3.8	1.4	0.3	1.7	7.9
<b>Unemployed</b>									
Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0

Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	5.7	5.7	4.5	2.6	3.3	1.3	3.2	1.4	4.9
Mar-03 — Oct-07	6.0	5.4	4.9	2.9	3.6	1.6	2.2	1.6	5.2
Nov-07	6.1	5.4	5.0	2.9	3.7	1.6	2.1	1.7	5.2
Dec-07	6.2	5.5	5.0	2.9	3.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	5.2
Jan-08	6.3	5.6	5.0	3.0	4.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	5.2
Feb-08	6.4	5.7	5.1	3.0	4.1	1.7	1.7	1.8	5.1
Mar-08	6.7	5.7	5.2	3.1	4.5	1.8	1.6	1.9	5.1
Apr-08	6.8	5.9	5.5	3.2	4.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	5.2
May-08	6.9	6.0	5.5	3.3	4.8	1.9	1.4	2.0	5.1
Jun-08	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.1
Jul-08 — Aug-09	9.3	8.0	7.4	4.4	6.6	2.5	1.8	2.8	7.3
Sep-09	8.7	7.5	6.8	4.1	6.1	2.4	1.6	2.5	6.8
Oct-09	8.1	7.0	6.4	3.8	5.7	2.2	1.5	2.4	6.4
Nov-09	7.5	6.5	6.0	3.5	5.3	2.1	1.5	2.2	6.0
Dec-09 — Jun-13	7.1	6.1	5.6	3.3	5.0	1.9	1.4	2.1	5.7
Jul-13 — Jan-14	7.3	6.6	8.4	3.7	5.8	1.7	1.3	2.2	7.1
Feb-14 onwards	7.4	6.7	8.6	3.8	5.9	1.8	1.3	2.3	7.3

#### NILF

Feb-78 — Sep-82	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	4.5
Oct-82 — Aug-87	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.5
Sep-87 — Feb-89	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.5	4.0
Mar-89 — Aug-92	4.5	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	1.3	2.0	1.4	3.5
Sep-92 — Aug-97	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	1.3	1.0	4.0
Sep-97 — Sep-98	5.9	4.5	4.1	2.4	2.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	4.4
Oct-98 — Feb-03	6.4	3.7	4.1	3.2	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	6.0
Mar-03 — Oct-07	7.8	3.7	5.2	3.0	3.2	1.5	2.0	1.3	7.3
Nov-07	7.6	3.9	5.1	3.0	3.2	1.5	1.8	1.3	7.0
Dec-07	7.4	4.1	5.1	3.0	3.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	6.8
Jan-08	7.3	4.4	5.0	3.0	3.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	6.6
Feb-08	7.1	4.7	5.0	3.1	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	6.3
Mar-08	7.1	5.0	4.9	3.1	3.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	6.2
Apr-08	7.0	5.4	5.3	3.2	3.9	1.5	1.2	1.5	6.0
May-08	6.8	5.7	5.2	3.2	4.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.8
Jun-08	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	5.6
Jul-08 — Aug-09	8.3	7.6	6.5	4.0	5.2	1.8	1.4	2.0	8.0
Sep-09	7.8	7.2	6.1	3.7	4.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	7.4
Oct-09	7.3	6.7	5.8	3.5	4.6	1.6	1.2	1.8	6.9
Nov-09	6.9	6.4	5.4	3.3	4.4	1.6	1.2	1.7	6.5
Dec-09 — Jun-13	6.6	6.0	5.2	3.2	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	6.2
Jul-13 — Jan-14	8.4	4.4	9.8	3.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	2.5	9.0
Feb-14 onwards	8.5	4.5	9.9	3.7	4.6	1.8	0.8	2.5	9.1

#### Greater Capital City Statistical Areas

	Feb-78 — Sep-82	Oct-82 — Aug-87	Sep-87 — Feb-89	Mar-89 — Aug-92	Sep-92 — Aug-97	Sep-97 — Sep-98	Oct-98 — Feb-03
Greater Sydney	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Rest of NSW	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.3	5.7	5.8
Greater Melbourne	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	3.3
Rest of Victoria	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	3.2
Greater Brisbane	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.7	3.4
Rest of Queensland	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.3	3.6
Greater Adelaide	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.7
Rest of South Australia	2.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.5
Greater Perth	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.3
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.2
Greater Hobart	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
Rest of Tasmania	1.5	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1
	Mar-03 — Feb-08	Mar-08 — Jun-08	Jul-08 — Oct-09	Nov-09 — Jun-13	Jul-13 — Jan-14	Feb-14 onwards	
Greater Sydney	6.5	5.7	7.1	5.7	7.6	7.7	
Rest of NSW	6.4	5.6	7.0	5.6	7.5	7.6	
Greater Melbourne	3.2	5.1	6.4	5.1	4.0	4.0	
Rest of Victoria	3.1	5.0	6.3	5.0	3.9	3.9	

Greater Brisbane	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.9	6.0	
Rest of Queensland	4.4	4.3	5.4	4.3	6.3	6.4	
Greater Adelaide	2.5	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.0	
Rest of South Australia	2.4	2.5	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.8	
Greater Perth	2.6	3.5	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.0	
Rest of Western Australia	2.5	3.3	4.1	3.3	3.7	3.8	
Greater Hobart	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3	
Rest of Tasmania	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.5	
<b>Statistical Area Level 4 Regions</b>	<b>Oct-98 — Feb-03</b>	<b>Mar-03 — Feb-08</b>	<b>Mar-08 — Jun-08</b>	<b>Jul-08 — Oct-09</b>	<b>Nov-09 — Jun-13</b>	<b>Jul-13 — Jan-14</b>	<b>Feb-14 onwards</b>
Central Coast	7.4	8.5	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.2	10.4
Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury	7.2	8.3	7.0	9.2	7.0	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Blacktown	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - City and Inner South	8.5	9.7	8.3	10.8	8.3	11.7	11.9
Sydney - Eastern Suburbs	9.6	11.0	9.3	12.2	9.3	13.1	13.4
Sydney - Inner South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Inner West	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby	7.6	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Northern Beaches	7.8	8.9	7.6	9.9	7.6	10.7	10.9
Sydney - Outer South West	7.3	8.4	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.1	10.3
Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains	7.3	8.3	7.1	9.3	7.1	10.0	10.2
Sydney - Parramatta	7.8	8.9	7.6	10.0	7.6	10.8	11.0
Sydney - Ryde	7.7	8.8	7.5	9.8	7.5	10.6	10.8
Sydney - South West	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.4	10.6
Sydney - Sutherland	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Capital Region	7.2	8.2	7.0	9.2	7.0	9.9	10.1
Central West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Coffs Harbour - Grafton	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Far West and Orana	7.4	8.4	7.2	9.4	7.2	10.1	10.3
Hunter Valley exc Newcastle	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	10.0
Illawarra	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Mid North Coast	7.5	8.6	7.3	9.6	7.3	10.3	10.6
Murray	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
New England and North West	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	7.1	8.1	6.9	9.0	6.9	9.8	9.9
Richmond - Tweed	7.6	8.7	7.4	9.7	7.4	10.5	10.7
Riverina	7.6	8.6	7.4	9.6	7.4	10.4	10.6
Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	9.0	10.3	8.7	11.4	8.7	12.3	12.6
Melbourne - Inner	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
Melbourne - Inner East	3.6	3.4	6.2	8.2	6.2	4.5	4.6
Melbourne - Inner South	3.7	3.5	6.4	8.4	6.4	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - North East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.6	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - North West	3.7	3.6	6.5	8.6	6.5	4.7	4.8
Melbourne - Outer East	3.8	3.6	6.6	8.7	6.6	4.8	4.9
Melbourne - South East	3.6	3.4	6.3	8.3	6.3	4.6	4.7
Melbourne - West	3.5	3.4	6.1	8.1	6.1	4.4	4.5
Mornington Peninsula	3.6	3.5	6.4	8.3	6.4	4.6	4.7
Ballarat	4.0	3.8	6.9	9.1	6.9	5.0	5.1
Bendigo	3.8	3.7	6.7	8.8	6.7	4.9	5.0
Geelong	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Hume	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Latrobe - Gippsland	4.1	3.9	7.2	9.4	7.2	5.2	5.3
North West	3.9	3.7	6.8	8.9	6.8	4.9	5.0
Shepparton	4.3	4.1	7.4	9.7	7.4	5.4	5.5
Warrnambool and South West	3.7	3.5	6.5	8.5	6.5	4.7	4.8
Brisbane - East	4.1	5.1	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.2
Brisbane - North	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.1	8.3
Brisbane - South	4.2	5.2	5.2	6.8	5.2	8.2	8.4
Brisbane - West	4.1	5.2	5.1	6.7	5.1	8.2	8.3
Brisbane Inner City	4.2	5.3	5.3	6.9	5.3	8.4	8.6
Ipswich	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.5	5.0	7.9	8.1

Logan - Beaudesert	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.4	8.6
Moreton Bay - North	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.4	4.8	7.7	7.9
Moreton Bay - South	3.9	4.9	4.8	6.3	4.8	7.7	7.9
Cairns	4.9	6.2	6.1	8.0	6.1	9.7	9.9
Darling Downs - Maranoa	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.1	9.3
Fitzroy	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Gold Coast	4.3	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.4	8.6	8.7
Mackay	4.2	5.3	5.2	6.9	5.2	8.3	8.5
Queensland - Outback	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Sunshine Coast	4.3	5.4	5.3	7.0	5.3	8.5	8.7
Toowoomba	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Townsville	4.7	5.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	9.2	9.4
Wide Bay	4.6	5.8	5.7	7.5	5.7	9.0	9.2
Adelaide - Central and Hills	3.3	3.1	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - North	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.7	3.8
Adelaide - South	3.4	3.1	3.4	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.9
Adelaide - West	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
Barossa - Yorke - Mid North	3.5	3.2	3.5	4.5	3.5	3.9	4.0
South Australia - Outback	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.8	3.7	4.1	4.2
South Australia - South East	3.1	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.5	3.5
Mandurah	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Perth - Inner	3.1	3.5	4.9	6.5	4.9	5.8	5.9
Perth - North East	2.9	3.3	4.6	6.1	4.6	5.4	5.5
Perth - North West	2.8	3.2	4.5	5.9	4.5	5.2	5.3
Perth - South East	2.9	3.3	4.7	6.1	4.7	5.5	5.6
Perth - South West	2.7	3.1	4.3	5.7	4.3	5.0	5.1
Bunbury	2.4	2.8	4.0	5.2	4.0	4.6	4.7
Western Australia - Outback	2.8	3.3	4.6	6.0	4.6	5.4	5.5
Western Australia - Wheat Belt	2.6	3.0	4.2	5.5	4.2	4.9	5.0
Greater Hobart	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Launceston and North East	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.8
Tasmania - South East	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.2
Tasmania - West and North West	1.3	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8
Darwin	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9
Northern Territory - Outback	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9

## Quality Declaration - Summary

### QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

#### INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

#### RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

## TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 39 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 46 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

## ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 26,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.32% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Australian Labour Force Survey receives a higher level of co-operation from individuals in selected dwellings compared to other countries, with the average response rate over the past 3 years being 93.25 per cent, and the average rate over the past year being 92.5 per cent (to the nearest quarter of a per cent, in rounded terms). See Glossary for definition of response rate.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in *Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube* (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

## COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## INTERPRETABILITY

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.